

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 04738 201641Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05
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SP-02 SS-15 /081 W
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O 201638Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7801
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 04738

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, UR, GE, US
SUBJECT: BILATERAL APPROACHES ON SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 179532

1. DCM MADE PRESENTATION ALONG LINES OF REFTTEL TO GDR
MFA USA DIVISION CHIEF GEYER JULY 20. IN VERY BRIEF
RESPONSE, GEYER SAID HE COULD NOT "OFFICIALLY TAKE COGNI-
ZANCE" OF DCM'S PRESENTATION. GEYER SAID IT WAS THE GDR
POSITION THAT IT CANNOT ACCEPT, IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS
WITH U.S. OR OTHER STATES, PRESENTATIONS THAT COMMENT ON
AND HENCE REPRESENT INTERFERENCE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THIRD
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 04738 201641Z

STATES.

2. DCM SAID HE REGRETTED THAT GEYER COULD NOT OFFICIALLY
ACKNOWLEDGE VIEWS OF "GRAVE CONCERN" EXPRESSED BY USG. AS
GEYER WAS AWARE, IT IS THE US POSITION, EXPRESSED BY
PRESIDENT CARTER AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, THAT
ALL MEMBERS OF UN HAD PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO OBSERVE AND

RESPECT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. SIGNATORY STATES TO THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT HAD ASSUMED SIMILAR COMMITMENTS. THUS, NO SIGNATORY STATE OR US MEMBER COULD CLAIM THAT MISTREATMENT OF ITS CITIZENS WAS SOLELY ITS OWN INTERNAL AFFAIR OR THAT THIRD STATE DID NOT HAVE RIGHT TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON SUCH MATTERS. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT U.S. WAS EXPRESSING ITS CONCERNS RE RECENT TRIALS IN THE USSR AND HENCE WE DID NOT CONSIDER OUR EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AS INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS. GEYER DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH THESE POINTS; INSTEAD HE MERELY REPEATED THAT GDR COULD NOT ACCEPT OFFICIAL COMMENTS ABOUT THIRD STATES IN ITS BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH STATES.

3. COMMENT: WE FIND GEYER'S COMMENT NOTEWORTHY IN THAT THERE WAS NO EFFORT ON HIS PART TO DEFEND SOVIET ACTIONS OR, AT THE SAME TIME, TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE U.S. POSITION. INSTEAD, HE APPEARED TO ATTEMPT TO ADOPT A NEUTRAL, HANDS OFF POSITION IN WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY A SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR THE SOVIETS. BOLEN

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